International Seabed Authority ISBA/21/LTC/10

Legal and Technical Commission

Distr.: General
27 February 2015

Original: English

Twenty-first session
Kingston, Jamaica
13-24 July 2015

Recommendations on the selection of candidates for the training programmes of China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association in 2015

1. On 12 November 2014, the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority received a training proposal from China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA), which was submitted pursuant to schedule 3 to the contract for exploration for polymetallic sulphides signed by the Authority and COMRA in November 2011.

2. According to the training proposal, COMRA will provide on-land training opportunities for four trainees from developing countries in 2015, with two trainees for a Fellowship training programme and two for an Engineering training programme.

3. The Fellowship training programme is scheduled between March and July 2015 for a duration of five months, while the Engineering training programme is scheduled for March and April 2015 with a duration of six weeks. Both training programmes will be carried out by COMRA in cooperation with the Second Institute of Oceanography of the State Oceanic Administration of China and Zhejiang University.

4. The Fellowship training programme is to be conducted through theoretical graduate courses and practical laboratory data analysis. The Engineering training programme is to be conducted through graduate engineering courses and the application of investigation skills, as well as data analysis and interpretation. The Fellowship training focuses on theoretical training in the classroom whereas the Engineering training focuses on practical training in the laboratory.

5. COMRA indicated that the candidates for the Fellowship programme should hold a Bachelor's degree or the equivalent in geology, geophysics, biology or environment. The candidates for the Engineering training programme should hold either a Bachelor's degree or Master's degree in marine engineering, mining engineering, mechanical engineering or electrical engineering. The candidates are expected to engage in marine research, marine development or marine management in the future.

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6. COMRA also indicated that the candidates should also meet the following requirements:

(a) Less than 45 years of age;

(b) Have good written and spoken English;

(c) Possess scientific research or marine management capability.

7. COMRA will pay for a round-trip airline ticket (economy class) and travel insurance for the trainees and provide local ground transportation, accommodation and allowance.

8. Upon receiving the training proposal from COMRA, the secretariat circulated a note verbale to all members of the Authority to invite them to nominate candidates for the training programmes. Invitations were also sent to the members of the Legal and Technical Commission to further encourage nominations. As at 10 February 2015, a total of 93 applications from 34 countries had been received.

9. At its meeting on 16 February 2015, the Commission designated a training subgroup to carry out an initial review and appraisal of the applications and report back to the full Commission. In making its selection of candidates, the subgroup considered the relevant regulations, as well as the principles, policies and procedures applicable to the training programmes, particularly the recommendations for the guidance of contractors and sponsoring States relating to training programmes under plans of work for exploration (ISBA/19/LTC/14).

10. The selection of candidates by the subgroup was based on the qualifications of the candidates proposed by COMRA, particularly language proficiency, education, scientific research background or marine management work experience, potential career development of candidates, reasons for seeking training, expected benefit to the candidates' national countries and other merits embodied in the application and nomination forms. Subject to those considerations, due regard was also paid to equitable geographical distribution and gender balance, in particular the interests and needs of the landlocked and geographically disadvantaged developing States, as requested by the Council of the International Seabed Authority in its decision adopted at the twentieth session (ISBA/20/C/31, para. 6).

11. The training subgroup met on each working day from 18 to 24 February and carried out the selection in a staged process, gradually reducing the candidates from 95 to 41 and finally to 6 for the fellowship training and 8 for the engineering training. The subgroup then ranked the candidates for each training programme as follows: first-ranked candidates (two names); first alternate (one name); other alternates.

12. The Commission, after consideration of the subgroup's work, recommends to the Secretary-General, in consultation with COMRA, that the following candidates be chosen for the respective training programmes:

For the Fellowship training programme

First-ranked candidates

Mr. Reinier Giralt Ortega (Cuba)

Mr. Taufan Wiguna (Indonesia)

First alternate

Ms. Natalia Amezcua Torres (Mexico)

Other alternates

Mr. Victor Lopes (Brazil)

Mr. Md. Minhaj Monir (Bangladesh)

Mr. Mohamed Hassan (Egypt)

For the Engineering training programme

First-ranked candidates

Ms. Natia Chomakhidze (Georgia)

Mr. Prithivi Dass Bissessur (Mauritius)

First alternate

Mr. Andriharizafy Rantosoa (Madagascar)

Other alternates

Mr. Dramane Traore (Mali)

Mr. Tris Handoyo (Indonesia)

Mr. Chinedu Okweze (Nigeria)

Mr. Mohammad Hossain Mahtab (Bangladesh)

Mr. Afif Widaryanto (Indonesia)